



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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GRAND JURY IN WICHITA RETURNS INDICTMENTS

WICHITA, KAN. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that 14 individuals have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Wichita, Kan. The list includes the following:

Daniel E. Van Becelaere, 53, Pittsburg, Kan., former secretary-treasurer of United Transportation Union, AFL-CIO, Local 763. He is charged with one count of embezzling \$10,274.24 from the union during the time from March 17, 2000 to Dec. 29, 2000; one count of embezzling \$22,285 from the union during the time from Jan. 3, 2001 to Dec. 20, 2001; and one count of embezzling \$3,610.60 from the union during the period from Jan. 1, 2002 to April 23, 2002.

If convicted, he faces up to five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor. Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Metzger is prosecuting.

James Williams, 28, Independence, Kan., who is charged with committing a series of armed robberies in Independence.

According to the indictment, Williams twice robbed the employees of Jump Start Express, 512 Northeast in Coffeyville, first on Aug. 22, 2004 and then again on Aug. 24, 2004. Also on Aug. 22, he robbed the employees of Mirastar, 2973 W. Main in Independence. According to the indictment, he used a gun in all three robberies. The indictment also accuses him of possession of crack cocaine with intent to distribute on Sept. 27, 2004.

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He faces a total of nine counts including three counts of interfering with interstate commerce by robbery, three counts of using a firearm in a robbery, one count of using a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; one count of possession with intent to distribute 1.34 grams of crack cocaine; and one count of possessing a firearm after being convicted of a felony.

If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine on the robbery charges; up to life in prison and a \$250,000 fine on the charges of using a firearm in furtherance of robbery and drug trafficking; not less than 10 years to life and a \$4 million fine on the drug possession charge; and up to 10 years and a \$250,000 fine on the charge of possessing a firearm after a felony conviction.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Treaster is prosecuting.

Pedro Garcia-Garcia, 43, is charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute 115 grams of methamphetamine on May 1, 2003 in Sedgwick County, Kan.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of not less than five years and not more than 40 years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$2 million. The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Assistant U.S. Attorney Blair Watson is prosecuting.

Scott V. Jones, 46, Great Bend; **Fernando M. Rodriguez**, 40, Great Bend; **Jose Luis Delacruz-Tamayo**, 55, Great Bend; **Stephanie Sue Lindsay**, 24, Great Bend; and **Colleen E. Gray**, 46, Great Bend, who are charged in a superceding indictment with conspiracy during the time before Sept. 28, 2004 to distribute more than five grams of crack cocaine.

Jones also is charged alone with one count of distributing more than five grams of crack cocaine on Sept. 28, 2004; and one count of hiring a person under 18 years old to distribute crack cocaine.

Delacruz-Tamayo , a citizen of Mexico, is charged alone with illegally entering the United States.

A conviction on the conspiracy charge would carry a maximum penalty of not less than five years and not more than 40 years in federal prison as well as a \$2 million fine. On the distribution count, Jones faces a maximum penalty of not less than five years and not more than 40 years in federal prison, as well as a \$2 million fine. On the charge of hiring a minor to distribute crack cocaine Jones faces a maximum penalty of not less than one year and not more than 40 years in federal prison, as well as a \$1 million fine. On the immigration charge, Delacruz-Tamayo faces up to six months in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Blair Watson is prosecuting.

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Shawn Childs, 29, who is charged in a superceding indictment with two counts of theft of trade secrets and one count of committing fraud by wire communication.

According to the indictment, Childs stole trade secrets from Precision Pattern, Inc. in Sedgwick County, Kan. on Feb. 24, 2000.

If convicted, he faces up to 10 years and a \$250,000 fine on each of the two theft counts and up to five years and a \$250,000 fine on the wire fraud count. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Jamial L. Pugh, 30, Wichita, who is charged with illegally possessing a firearm on Aug. 26, 2004 after having been convicted of a felony.

If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Treaseter is prosecuting.

Santos Pineda, 38, Dodge City, Kan., who is charged with four counts of distributing methamphetamine in amounts of more than 50 grams in Ford County, Kan. on Feb. 26, April 2, June 3 and Dec. 3, 2004.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of five years to 40 years in prison and a \$2 million fine. The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Juan Manuel Hernandez-Cruz, 29, a citizen of Guatemala, who is charged with seven counts related to using false documents to illegally enter and remain in the United States.

According to Count 2 of the indictment, Hernandez-Cruz illegally reentered the United States Dec. 1, 2004 after having been deported. He was arrested in Arkansas City, Kan.

In nine other counts he is charged with using false documents to represent himself as a United States citizen.

If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine on a charge of possessing false documents; up to two years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on a charge of illegally reentering the country; up to three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each of four counts of making a false claim of U.S. Citizenship; and up to five years and a \$250,000 fine on four counts of misusing a Social Security number.

The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Social Security Administration. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson is prosecuting.

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Pedro Mederos-Avellandea, 29, a citizen of Mexico, who is charged with illegally reentering the United States after being deported subsequent to a conviction for an aggravated felony. He was arrested in Wichita, Kan. April 23, 2004

If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson is prosecuting.

Ramon Medina-Romero, 32, a citizen of Mexico, who is charged with illegally reentering the United States after being deported. He was arrested Nov. 18, 2004 in Colby, Kan.

If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson is prosecuting.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.

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